



## GOVERNOR UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE PRISON REFORM

*Today Governor Schwarzenegger unveiled a comprehensive proposal to strengthen public safety by building and modernizing prison facilities, reforming California's parole and sentencing structures and putting resources in-place to swiftly implement Jessica's Law. His proposal helps end early release due to overcrowding and keeps the most violent offenders behind bars by adding 78,000 beds in state prisons and local jails. It also addresses California's high recidivism rates by doubling funding for programs to help offenders return to their communities.*

*The Governor's remarks are archived at [www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov). All prison background materials will be posted to [www.gov.ca.gov/prisonreform](http://www.gov.ca.gov/prisonreform).*

**Governor Schwarzenegger's plan invests \$10.9 billion to expand California's prison and jail capacity by 78,000 beds.**

- **Local jails and juvenile facilities:** In 2005 alone, 233,388 individuals avoided incarceration or were released early from jail sentences due solely to a lack of jail space.
  - The Governor proposes \$5.5 billion (\$4.4 billion lease revenue bonds, \$1.1 billion in local matching funds) for local jails and juvenile facilities. This proposal will fund 45,000 local beds (20,000 for local needs, 25,000 for state to shift prisoner populations) and 5,000 juvenile beds.
- **State prisons:** California's 174,000 prison population lives in facilities designed for 100,000, and overcrowding has forced more than 17,000 inmates into gymnasium and classroom housing, a dangerous alternative that puts offenders and correctional officers in danger.
  - The Governor proposes \$4.4 billion (\$3.3 billion lease revenue bonds, \$800 million contract authority, \$300 million General Fund) to fund 16,238 new state prison beds on existing sites; add 5,000-7,000 beds in new secure re-entry facilities; build a new training facility; and construct a modernized Death Row at San Quentin.
- **Medical facilities:** The Governor proposes setting aside \$1 billion (lease revenue bonds) to provide specialized beds and treatment and program space for mental health and medical services as directed by the court-appointed Receiver in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*.

**The Governor's plan places low-level and juvenile offenders in county facilities instead of state prisons.**

- He proposes placing some low-level and juvenile offenders in county facilities rather than state facilities to allow offenders who pose a minimal public safety risk to serve their sentences closer to their communities and families. This is particularly important for juvenile offenders.

**Governor Schwarzenegger is focused on reducing recidivism. His plan includes:**

- A \$41.1 million increase in funding this year, from \$52.8 million to \$93.9 million, for anti-recidivism programs including drug treatment, job training and housing assistance.
- \$50 million in designated General Fund revenue to increase the effectiveness of adult probation services in California, with a focus on 18-to-25 year olds.
- Authorization to contract for 4,350 beds for non-violent female inmates, to provide resources that will help reduce their chance of recidivism.

**The Governor proposes a permanent Sentencing Commission to review and recommend changes to California's sentencing structure. Under the Governor's proposal:**

- He will appoint the 17-member commission, which will consist of: Four legislators recommended by leadership, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), a state judge and representatives from law enforcement and crime victims groups. Members will serve four-year terms.
- The commission will solicit feedback and recommend improvements to the State's current sentencing guidelines, analyze bills that impact sentencing and act as the State's research clearinghouse on sentencing policy. In its first year the Commission will focus on California's parole system.

**The Governor proposes examining California's parole structure to strengthen public safety.**

- The current parole system threatens the public by dedicating resources to irrelevant issues and ignoring violent felons. Only one other state shares California's parole structure.
- The Governor proposes that the sentencing commission review California's parole structure and recommend changes, with the goal of dramatically reducing current caseloads and allowing the state to designate an additional 200 parole agents to enforcing Jessica's Law—which increases parole times for the most serious sexual crimes and mandates lifetime monitoring of convicted felony sex offenders.

**The Governor proposes a comprehensive Sex Offender Management Plan to ensure that Jessica's Law is swiftly implemented.**

- The passage of Jessica's Law was a historic victory for the state of California, which has the highest population of sex offenders in the nation.
- The Governor's three-part Sex Offender Management Plan will implement:
  - Recommendations by the Governor's High Risk Sex Offender (HRSO) Task Force
  - Jessica's Law
  - Recent legislation related to sex offenders
- In total, the Governor proposes spending \$59 million in 2006-07 and then tripling funding—to \$178 million in 2007-08—so that the departments of Justice (DOJ), Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Mental Health (DMH) can enact this plan.

For more information on all proposals, please see the attached PDFs.